Howard Smith Presents John Retterer with his A.P. Merit Award.

"Captain B & O "
Howard R Smith, Jr., MMR 260
February 17, 1940 – March 20, 2015

Howard was retired as Engineering Manager for Diamond Electronics in Lancaster, Ohio and was working at a train watcher's "dream job" for Renzenberger, Inc. as a cab driver shuttling Norfolk Southern train crews to and from assignments.

Howard is survived by his wife Sharon, two children and one step son, along with six very special grandchildren of whom he was very proud.

Howard was an avid model railroader all of his life. He became a junior member of the Columbus Model Railroad Club when he was sixteen years old. He seldom missed a Tuesday night at the club and served in numerous leadership positions over his fifty-nine years as a member. He was club President at the time of his passing. He was recognized as an Honorary Life Member in 2006.

Howard joined the NMRA in 1971 and became active in Division 6 activities. Over the years he served in various leadership positions including several terms as Superintendent. He was currently serving as a Director and as the Division Achievement Program Manager.

Howard was a regular attendee at Mid-Central Region Conventions and served as Contest Manager for many years. Howard also was a Past President of the Region and a recipient of the Wenderfer Award sponsored by Division 7 in 2008.

Howard received his Master Model Railroader certificate in April, 1997, at the NMRA National Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. He also won the Caboose and Traction categories in the National contest that year, as well as the "Brass Lantern" from the United Transportation Workers.

Howard's other passion was for the Boy Scouts. He served as Scout Master for Troop 33 in Columbus for many years and was currently a member of the Troop Committee.

Howard was a meticulous and extremely talented modeler as evidenced by his beautiful "Sandpatch Division" layout. The layout was featured in the October 2003 issue of '*Scale Rails*' magazine and again in the June 2006 issue of "*Railmodel Journal*".

Howard will be sorely missed and long remembered for his many talents, his mischievous smile and his willingness to lend a hand to everyone in need. How very different an experience it is traveling to division meets and conventions without my chief navigator.

Dick Briggs, MMR 261